

(From left to right)SP Mayor Kevin Glover, Grand Marshall Nettingham, Parade Comm. Chairman Don Wussler, FW Mayor Colleen Mahr

Tuskegee Airman named Grand Marshal

The Fanwood Scotch Plains Memorial Day Parade Committee announces Malcolm Nettingham as Grand Marshal for this year's parade. Mr. Nettingham is a veteran of WWII and one of 300 Tuskegee airmen to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award Congress may bestow. "We are delighted to have a distinguished and highly decorated veteran as our Grand Marshal" noted Don Wussler, commission chairman.

The Tuskegee airmen were the first black pilots in American military service. They overcame discrimination and prejudice to become one of the most highly respected groups of service members during WWII. Their achievements paved the way for the full integration of the U.S. military.

A resident of Scotch Plains since he was 5 years old , Mr. Nettingham is still active in the community. He is a member of Alpha Lodge #116 F&AM in East Orange , NJ and is a member in good standing at the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Scotch Plains where he sings in the Men's Chorus and the Voices of Metropolitan. Throughout his life, he has served as a role model for young people including many years as a Sunday school teacher. He is the patriarch of a family that includes his son , Malcolm V , and daughter, Deborah , along with 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

The parade committee asks that all residents of Fanwood and Scotch Plains turn out for the Memorial Day weekend events , the concert on Sunday evening May 25th at 6:30 pm at the Fanwood train station and the parade on Monday may 26th on Park Ave as we pay tribute to our fallen military.